



# The OPLIN CIRCUIT

News for Ohio Public Library Staff & Management

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## Holiday Support Hours

### The OPLIN Support Center Closed:

- . Friday, December 24th
- . Friday, December 31st

### Open 8am - 5pm:

- . Thursday, December 23rd
- . Monday, January 17th
- . Monday, February 21st

For more information, go to <http://support.oplin.org>.

## Autumn at OPLIN

Autumn at OPLIN came and went quickly. Much of it was spent enjoying the beautiful Ohio countryside from our cars, while driving to meetings around the state. Now, the leaves are all on the ground, the days have grown short, and we've turned our attention to little undone details - like a fall issue of *The OPLIN Circuit*.

So what have we been up to since summer?

- September and October are "meeting season" for libraries, and we saw many of you over the course of two months at these meetings. The major one, of course, was **OLC Annual**. OPLIN staff were presenters, but what we enjoyed most was hanging out in the common space, greeting library staff from around the state.
- An RFQ for a **network security audit** was issued, and we have been reviewing responses. An announcement should be forthcoming in January.
- OPLIN's committees have been testing **OPLIN Self Serve**. It went live for the OPLIN Stakeholders Meeting at the end of October. To obtain a password for access, send an e-mail to

[support@oplin.org](mailto:support@oplin.org) You will notice that the old "For Librarians" area has been replaced by the **About OPLIN** section on the regular website, but that all of the functions requiring a library director's approval are inside Self Serve.

## Meeting of the Year

The **OPLIN Stakeholders Meeting** is a major event for us every year. If you weren't able to attend, you missed the Great Roddini's fearless forecasts and answers to all questions (*Q: Do you have to be named Don to work at OPLIN? A: No, as long as OPLIN is meeting its Don quota.*) Unfortunately, that performance cannot be duplicated here. However, you can find the PowerPoint presentations and handouts on the OPLIN website under About OPLIN > 2004 OPLIN Stakeholders Meeting > Agenda page.

Please do take a look at our Annual Report. Usage of OPLIN-provided resources is up significantly, and we're very proud of our accomplishments.

Carol's State of the Network presentation from the "Where We've Been" session points out some startling numbers. Users of Ohio public libraries are pushing 100 gigabytes of data over the network daily. Network traffic is at a sustained 60 mbps between noon and 8 pm, peaking to over 100 mbps. (In non-techie terms, that's about the equivalent of sustained gale-force winds, gusting to hurricane-force daily.) Part of that is the 200% increase in database searches per month that OneSearch has wrought, and the 50% increase per month in articles accessed as a result of those searches.

You could say that we are very busy puppies, indeed!

## Holiday Wishes

As this issue of *The OPLIN Circuit* is distributed, we will be slipping into the winter holiday season. The OPLIN staff - Carol, Tom, Vince, Don, and Don - wish happy holidays to everyone out there in Ohio Libraryland. May 2005 be a landmark year for Ohio public libraries!



## OPLIN Awards Innovation

At the Stakeholders Meeting in October, OPLIN presented its 4th Annual Award for Innovation to the Portage County District Library for their Library Express service. Pam Hickson-Stevenson, Director of the Portage County District Library, was on hand to accept the Award on Portage County's behalf.

In presenting the award, Carol Roddy noted that **Library Express**:

- Provides real and direct patron benefit, delivering material directly to patrons more conveniently.
- Builds on a traditional service area and expands it—uses online reserving to extend library service to more locations in the county.
- Overcomes previous constraints such as hours and location. Patrons can pick up materials outside library hours.
- Demonstrates creativity and courage.

Library Express was funded, in part, with the assistance of the State Library of Ohio through an Institute of Museum and Library Services LSTA grant. Find out more at the library's website <[http://www.portagecounty.lib.oh.us/library\\_express.htm](http://www.portagecounty.lib.oh.us/library_express.htm)>.



*Pam Hickson-Stevenson, Director of the Portage County District Library, accepts the Award on Portage County's behalf from OPLIN Director Carol Roddy.*

## Authentication Simplification

OPLIN is currently working on ways to streamline remote access to our databases. One of our main goals is to try and eliminate the step of choosing a library from the complete list.

All Ohio librarians are invited to visit <http://www.oplin.org/access2test.php> to check one or more of your libraries' card numbers. If your library name appears in red above the box after submitting the card number, then everything is fine.

### WRONG LIBRARY NAME?

Please contact Don Yarman at [yarmando@oplin.org](mailto:yarmando@oplin.org) and let him know what library appears, what library should appear, and what number you entered to make the error happen.

### LIST OF LIBRARIES

In about 25% of the state's libraries, we can't uniquely identify a library, but we can generate a list of possible libraries. If your library does not appear in the drop-down box of selections, again please contact Don Yarman. He'll want to know what library should appear and what numbers you used to test the system.

Lastly, if you believe that our system should be able to uniquely identify your library from your card numbers, but users still have to select you from a list, please let us know. The more libraries that we can uniquely identify based on their card number, the easier this system will be for all users.

## Watch for Two Things

### E-rate Information

Libraries will soon receive their Service Year 2005 Letter of Agency, authorizing OPLIN to apply for E-rate benefits on your library's behalf. We need a 100% response rate!

### Preview Period in the Spring

OPLIN will host another database preview period sometime in the spring, giving Ohio libraries preview access to a wide variety of database products. This year, we will only feature products for which vendors are willing to negotiate group contracts.



# Support Center Tips: Network Planning Services

**B**uilding projects can be confusing. So can keeping up with the demands of your branch libraries, local area networks and wide area networks. That's why the OPLIN Support Center offers **comprehensive planning services** to assist you in making solid, informed decisions about your wide-area telecommunications needs.

Through a partnership with the State Library of Ohio, and utilizing a Staying Connected Grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, OPLIN will send a dedicated staff member to visit your library with a

bandwidth utilization report, and conduct a comprehensive review of your existing telecommunication resources. We will then develop a project plan with a detailed report of the proposed changes and a timeline for making them. Your library will have access to this same dedicated staff member throughout the entire planning and implementation process, keeping you updated on changes and milestones until the project is completed.

Whether you are changing a circuit, increasing the bandwidth to a building, or

trying to save on your telecomm budget, OPLIN Network Planning Services can help you sort out the differences between the 40+ service providers within the State of Ohio, and determine the real cost of expanding or changing your network.

**Please note that this service does NOT include local area network consulting, and therefore our recommendations will have to do with changes on the outside of the router.**

## Out & About on the Circuit

**D**on Yarman will be at every single one of the OLC Chapter Conference next year. Will you? The dates are as follows:

March 23	Northeast	Kent State University, Kent
March 31	Southeast	Holiday Inn, Zanesville
April 8	Southwest	Dayton Marriott
April 15	North	Clarion Hotel & Conference Center
April 22	Northwest	Toledo Hilton/Dana Conference Center
April 28	Central	Fawcett Center, Columbus

More information can be found at [http://www.olc.org/chap\\_confs.asp](http://www.olc.org/chap_confs.asp).

The State Library is sponsoring OPLIN Database Training in a number of locations around the state. See <http://www.slocem.lib.oh.us/default.asp?For=SLO> for a detailed schedule.

This fall, OPLIN provided four separate training sessions for library staff in-service days - three of them on Columbus Day alone. If you're looking for some hands-on training for your staff, OPLIN can do overviews of our databases, OneSearch, and KnowItNow. Call the OPLIN office or e-mail [yarmando@oplin.org](mailto:yarmando@oplin.org) to find out more.

## News from the OPLIN Board

**A**t the October meeting in Worthington, the OPLIN Board of Trustees approved new Security Procedures, which can be found on the OPLIN website under **About OPLIN > Policies & Procedures**.

The Board also reaffirmed the **Good Neighbor Policy**, which was originally approved in December 2002.

Upcoming OPLIN Board meeting dates:

- December 10, 2004
- February 11, 2005 (Worthington)
- April 7-8, 2005 (Annual Board Retreat at Salt Fork State Park)
- May 13, 2005
- June 10, 2005
- August 12, 2005
- October 14, 2005

Libraries are invited and encouraged to attend all OPLIN Board meetings.



# OPLIN Database News

## AccessScience

There are two new Image Gallery exhibits. **Mars: Exploration** is available from the AccessScience homepage and the Image Gallery table of contents. Explore the red planet **by land** with NASA's gallery of images captured by scientific instruments aboard rovers *Spirit* and *Opportunity* — or view the planet **by orbit** with images from European Space Agency's (ESA) first mission to Mars, acquired by the High Resolution Stereo Camera (HRSC) and OMEGA and PFS (Planetary Fourier Spectrometer) onboard *Mars Express*. Read the accompanying essays and learn what U.S. and European-based space agencies have discovered about Mars.

Also, the development work and testing of the **enhanced AccessScience search engine** is nearly complete. Please watch for more information about the release schedule and accessing a preview version.

## eLibrary

Based on user feedback, numerous features have been added to the eLibrary digital learning resources in the past few months, including:

- “Searching topic” functionality was added to the main search page, and a list of related subjects appears within article results at the bottom of each article.
- A new “Find More Like This” feature within article results. Scroll down to the bottom of any article to find this function.

## HeritageQuest

The **Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files** collection details records of 80,000+ individuals who served in the Revolutionary War and contains both genealogical and historical information. Each veteran's file usually contains six or more pages on each veteran and normally includes the veteran's former rank, unit, and period of service, age or date of birth, residence, and sometimes-genealogical information on other family members.

## NetWellness

The holiday season has started again. It's the time of year that some people look forward to with both joy and apprehension. The season's many celebrations make it difficult to keep your eating and health under control. Would you like to make a change this

year? A good place to start is with the new NetWellness articles “Don't Let Holiday Candy Scare You” by Sharron Coplin, MS, RD, LD, Extension Nutrition Associate in the College of Human Ecology at The Ohio State University and “Avoid Letting Sickness Spoil the Holidays” by Charles J. Manfreda, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine of the College of Medicine and Public Health at The Ohio State University.

## NoveList

Here's a rundown of the new features you're finding in version 5.1 of the NoveList search engine. Click on “Learning Center” in the orange bar to the left of the NoveList screen for more.

**Article and List Search:** This new search gives increased access to Author read-alikes, Book Discussion Guides, BookTalks, Feature Articles, School Content, and Readers' Advisory Support Material. You can now find all of the book discussion guides, or awards list that relate to or mention a specific author, title, genre or character. Choose this search on the New Search Page.

**My NoveList:** Based on feedback from customers, NoveList has redesigned its Personal Folder system to be more intuitive and easier to use.

**E-Mail Documents:** NoveList ver. 5.1 allows users to e-mail Book Discussion Guides, BookTalks, Author Read-alikes, or Feature Articles.

**Clearer Book Discussion Guide Links:** There has been understandable confusion over the links from NoveList title records to some of the book discussion guides. Now, the book discussion guide link gives the title of the book discussion guide that it is going to. The links to articles, book talks, and other features also show the title of the item.

## Oxford Reference Online

Oxford Reference Online is now OpenURL v0.1 compliant. OpenURL links allow users with institutional access to check whether a book or journal cited on Oxford Reference Online is referenced in your library's holdings. In order to enable this feature, your institution needs to have an OpenURL resolver.

More than 2,000 illustrations from the *Visual English Dictionary* have been added to the Premium Collection in the subject areas of Astronomy, Earth, the Human Body, Arts and Architecture, Energy, and Science.